

Message Text

SECRET

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47

ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1038

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

S E C R E T NAIROBI 7242

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KE, UG, SO

SUBJ: SOMALIA OFFERS GOOD OFFICES TO KENYA AND UGANDA

REG: NAIROBI 7151

1. ACCORDING TO NAIROBI PRESS, SOMALI CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN NAIROBI YESTERDAY ANNOUNCED THAT HIS COUNTRY HAS NO INTENTION OF INVADING KENYA AND "ANY SUCH CLAIMS ARE UNFOUNDED." HE FURTHER STATED THAT "SOMALIA HAS NO INTENTION OF SIDING WITH UGANDA ON ANYTHING." HE ALSO SAID THAT PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE HAD APPEALED TO BOTH KENYA AND UGANDA TO USE UTMOST RESTRAINT AND PATIENCE IN SOLVING WHATEVER DIFFERENCES THEY MIGHT HAVE.

2. PRESIDENTIAL PERMSEC KARIITHI CONFIRMED TO DCM THAT SOMALI STATEMENT IS ACCURATE REFLECTION OF OFFICIAL POSITION OF SOMALIA AS COMMUNICATED IN JULY 11 LETTER FROM PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE TO PRESIDENT KENYATTA, WHICH WAS COPIED TO PRESIDENT AMIN. IN THIS LETTER PRESIDENT SIAD OFFERED HIS GOOD OFFICER TO MEDIATE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN KENYA AND UGANDA.

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3. WHILE KARIITHI SAID GOK HAS NO INTENTION OF ACCEPTING

SIAD'S OFFER TO MEDIATE, IT IS INCLINED TO ACCEPT HIS ASSURANCES THAT NO ATTACK AGAINST KENYA IS CONTEMPLATED AT PRESENT PRESUMABLY BECAUSE DJIBOUTI AND ETHIOPIA ARE HIGHER PRIORITY CONCERNS OF SOMALIA. NEVERTHELESS, WHILE NO SOMALI ATTACK APPEARS IMMINENT, GOK CONTINUES TO BE UNEASY OVER SOMALI INTENTIONS IN MEDIUM AND LONG RUN. OF PARTICULAR CONCERN, SAID KARIITHI, WAS A CURIOUS RECENT INFLUX OF SOMALI "SETTLERS" WHO RENTED HUTS AT SEVERAL POINTS ON NAIROBI/MOMBASA RAILWAY NEAR MTITO ANDEI IN AN AREA NEVER PREVIOUSLY INHABITED BY ETHNIC SOMALIS. THESE SOMALI "SETTLERS" HAD SURPRISINGLY HIGH UNEARNED PER CAPITA INCOME OF ABOUT 600 SHILLINGS A MONTH WHICH GOK SUSPECTS WAS SECRETLY PROVIDED BY SOMALIA AUTHORITIES. GOK IS NOW FORCING THESE SOMALIS TO RESETTLE ELSEWHERE RATHER THAN RISK POSSIBLE ACTS OF SABOTAGE AGAINST RAILWAY IN EVENT OF WAR.

MARSHALL

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NNN

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